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LETTER DATED 9 AUGUST 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I regret to inform you of the continuation and alarming intensification of "ethnic cleansing" perpetrated by the Bosnian Serb forces in the occupied areas.

According to previous reports and now confirmed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), at least 300 Muslims have been expelled from their homes in the north-east city of Bijeljina over the past three weeks. Government sources report that these civilians, including men over the age of 60, women and children, were threatened, beaten and robbed before being placed on trucks and driven away to villages on the front lines. We also have reports that a number of civilians have been killed in this wave of ethnic cleansing. We can confirm at least the murder of one Bosnian civilian, Munib Beganovic, age 65, the uncle of one of the members of our Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. Mr. Beganovic was one of approximately 50 men taken by Serbian forces. The fate of the other men cannot be confirmed.

UNHCR and ICRC confirmed a newly established forced labour camp at Lopare, in the vicinity of Bijeljina, where reportedly at least 110 men under the age of 60 have been detained. These men are forced to perform chores for Serb soldiers and to dig trenches on the front lines for the Karadzic's Serb forces. Karadzic's forces have denied ICRC representatives access to this camp, but have reportedly confirmed the existence of the camp.

We urge the Council to condemn strongly these acts, to take the appropriate measures to put an end immediately to such practices, to demand that ICRC and its representatives be allowed immediate access to the Lopare concentration camp, and that the camp be closed.

We also remind the Security Council that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Mr. Yasushi Akashi has continued to be denied access to the occupied city of Banja Luka contrary to the latest cease-fire agreement. We must also remind the Security Council that a draft resolution is before the Council that calls for measures by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), including troop deployment, to deter such human rights abuses of the non-Serb population in Banja Luka, and by example other occupied territories.

We regret that after two months no positive action has been taken on this draft resolution.

May I ask, Excellency, for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative